में क्या करना है, हमें adaptation में क्या करना है और further study, जो अभी IPCC की रिपोर्ट आई है या हमने Netcom की पहली जो UNFCC को रिपोर्ट भेजी है, इनमें projections हैं कि This is going to happen, this is going to happen, सारी जो studies हैं। IPCC की वह continents को या regions को लेकर हैं, country-specific नहीं है। एक जो हमने Netcom भेजा है, वह हमारा country-specific है, दूसरे जो रिपोर्ट अभी बन रही है, उसका काम चालू हो गया है, उसमें और specifics में जाएंगे। More research is required and more studies are required and we are alive to the situation. जहां तक आपने funds का सवाल किया है, अभी adaptions के लिए हमारी GDP का 2, 2.5% पैसा सारे adaptation measures के लिए खर्च किया जा रहा है। Mitigation के लिए बहुत सारे, A host of measures are being taken by us.

National skill development mission

*306. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Skill Development Mission of the Union Government;

(b) whether any proposal has been submitted by the State Government of Kerala under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, 2008 has stated as follows:

> "**101.** Today, skill development programmes are diffused and administered by a number of ministries/departments. I have no intention of interfering with these sector-specific programmes. However, there is a compelling need to launch a world-class skill development programme, in mission mode, that will address the challenge of imparting the skills required by a growing economy. Both the structure and the leadership of the mission must be such that the programme can be scaled up quickly to cover the whole country. Hence, I propose to establish a non-profit corporation and entrust the mission to that corporation. It is my intention to garner about Rs. 15,000 crore as capital from Governments, the public and private sector, and bilateral and multilateral sources. I shall begin by putting Rs. 1,000 crore as Government's equity in the proposed non-profit corporation".

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has received a proposal from the Government of Kerala relating to the establishment of forty new Industrial Training Institutes for which the Panchayats and Members of the Legislative Assembly have agreed to provide land, building and furniture. The State has sought an assistance of Rs. 214 crores.

(d) No decision has been taken regarding the said proposal.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, skill development is of paramount importance, especially in the globalized scenario when labour mobility is increasing day by day. I am thankful to the Prime Minister for identifying this problem as one of the most important problems and in the Budget also it is announced that a corporation will be formed with an amount of Rs. 15,000 crores as its capital. I would like to say that not only set up the corporation but each Ministry/

Department of the Government should have some programme for skill development. I would like to know whether that is being done; if not, what the Government would like to do in that direction. Further, if this coporation is formed with a capital of Rs. 15,000 crores, when the skill development is being done in this way, the advatage would be mostly to the corporate bodies. How are the corporate bodies brought to participate into this? In the Budget, only Rs. 1,000 crores is mentioned. We need another Rs. 14,000 crores. In that case, why not corporate bodies are also encouraged to invest in this? Will the Government consider this proposal?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, as it has been pointed by the hon. Member himself, there are 17 Ministries who have been dealing with this particular skill development programme and they have been made available various facilities. Now, as far as his specific question is concerned, Sir,I would like to share, as far as Kerala is concerned, under the skill of vocationalisation of secondary education and the vocation schools and other things are concerned, Kerala has got 475 sanctioned schools and the number of vocational sections which have been sanctioned, is 1008. As far the students who have been admitted to get the needed training and to get the skill are concerned, the number is 56430. Now, this is the step, which the Government has taken and we have been providing all support to Kerala. Sir, as far other question is concerned, as I said, there are 17 Ministries, which have been dealing with the skill development programme. Now, the second part of the question, what steps have been taken for enabling the private investment and public private partnership, Sir, as skill development is an initiative to be primarily taken by the private sector, they are expected to participate by way of investing resources in skill development as it is required. During the consultations with the Planning Commission, the private sector partners have suggested certain models in their particular industry, which may be taken up once the National Skill Development Mission, National Skill Development Corporation, are set up.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister, even though I did not ask, for what he has said about Kerala and what he has sanctioned. ...*(Interruptions)*... But now I ask for what he has not sanctioned. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Sir, what I want to ask what he has not sanctioned. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, from Kerala there is a proposal for 40 new Industrial Training Institutes for skill development. You are aware that from Kerala a large number of youths are working in the Gulf countries and they are skilled or semi-skilled. Improving their skill is very important because they give us a lot of foreign exchange. They are getting employment and foreign exchange. That is what we preciously need. Therefore, this proposal of Kerala for improving the Industrial Training Centres and for which only Rs. 214 crores is asked. Why is not the Government considering it favourably and give an assurance in the House?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, the Kerala Government, the hon. Member knows much more than I do, has asked Rs. 5.35 crores for each of the 40 IITs which is required for investment in various tools and equipments, construction of buildings and construction of workshops, Sir, this proposal is before the Planning Commission for consideration.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Sir, I am inspired by the very encouraging assurance the Prime Minister gave to Mr. Swaminathan to another question and I would very much like the Prime Minister to consider this. The answer to the question whether there is a National Mission for Skill Development is a statement by the Finance Minister that you are going to

form a Corporation with Rs. 15,000 crores capital, Rs. 1000 crores coming from the Government, it is no non-profit corporation. Sir, this is a very unsatisfactory answer. This does talk about what exactly is the objective of National Skill Development Mission he is talking about. I just want to raise this issue that it must be understood that this skill development is so vital, almost like the climate change situation, in our country to look for employment for this whole 360 million of unorganised workers, it cannot be based on some kind of corporation, some kind of a profit motive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: The question is, will the Minister say that we shall have this mission whatever the cost, the cost will be borne, to the extent possible, if Mr. Kurein's suggestion for private contribution is good, if it is not, the Government will take care of this whole proposition as a public good and work towards that?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I am glad that the hon. Member has pointed out the things, which we need to take into consideration. Let me share with the hon. Member, Sir, that the various initiative...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question Hour is over ...*(Interruptions)*... I am afraid.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Protection of forest land

*304. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large area of forests has been wiped out in the last two-three years as per report released by Forest Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details of the States in which forest land has been wiped out;

(c) the exact cause of huge kilometres of forest land being wiped out;

(d) whether Government has since taken any concrete steps to protect the forest land from depletion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. There are no such reported loss of large forest areas in the past two-three years. The Forest Survey of India, Dehradun carries out assessment of forest cover in the country on biennial basis. In the report recently published by the Forest Survey of India "The State of Forest Report-2005" the assessment of forest cover based on the satellite imageries of the year 2004 has been made. On comparison of the findings of the SFR-2005 with the previous reports, it can be seen that the forest cover in the country has more or less stabilized. The forest covers of the country as per the assessment made in year 2001, 2003 and 2005 are given below:

Assessment Year	2001	2003	2005
Forest Cover (in Km^2)	653,898	677,816	677,088